Loftus Cracks Marathon Mark

HEAT HAMPERS RUNNERS

By BILL McGUIRE

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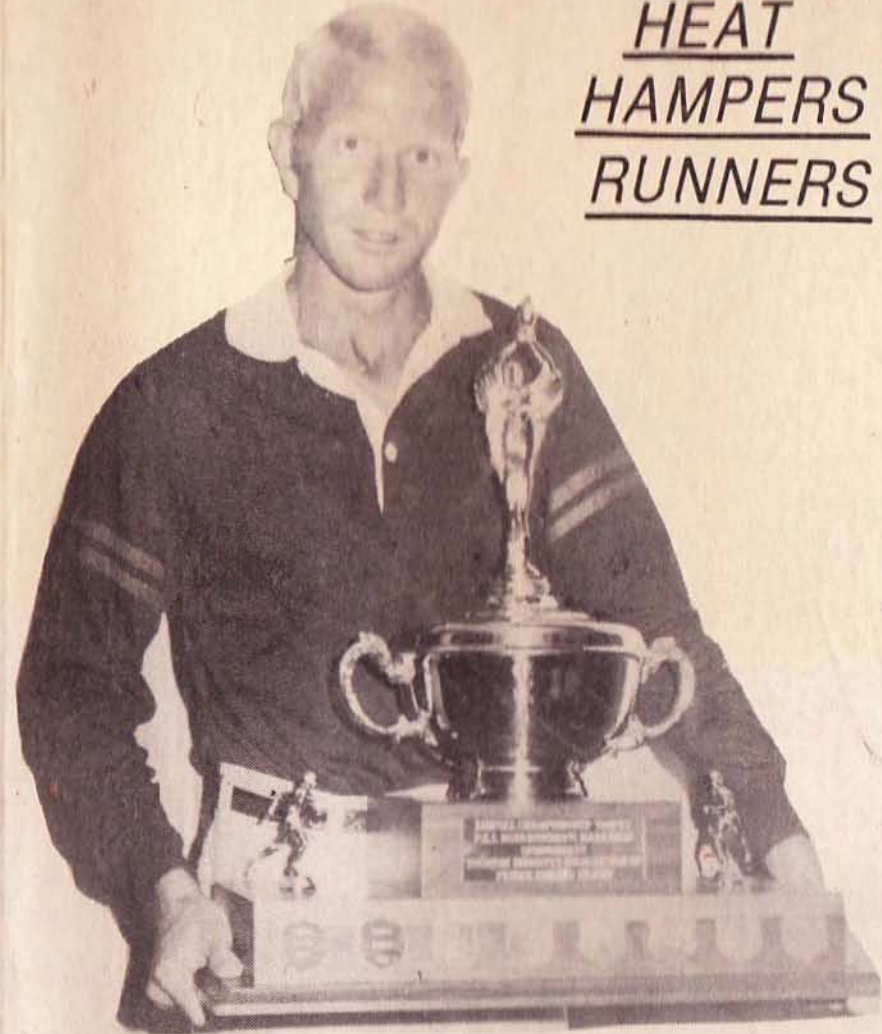
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LOFTUS HOLDS MARATHON TROPHY

Loftus Sets New P.E.I. Marathon Standard Of 2:32.36

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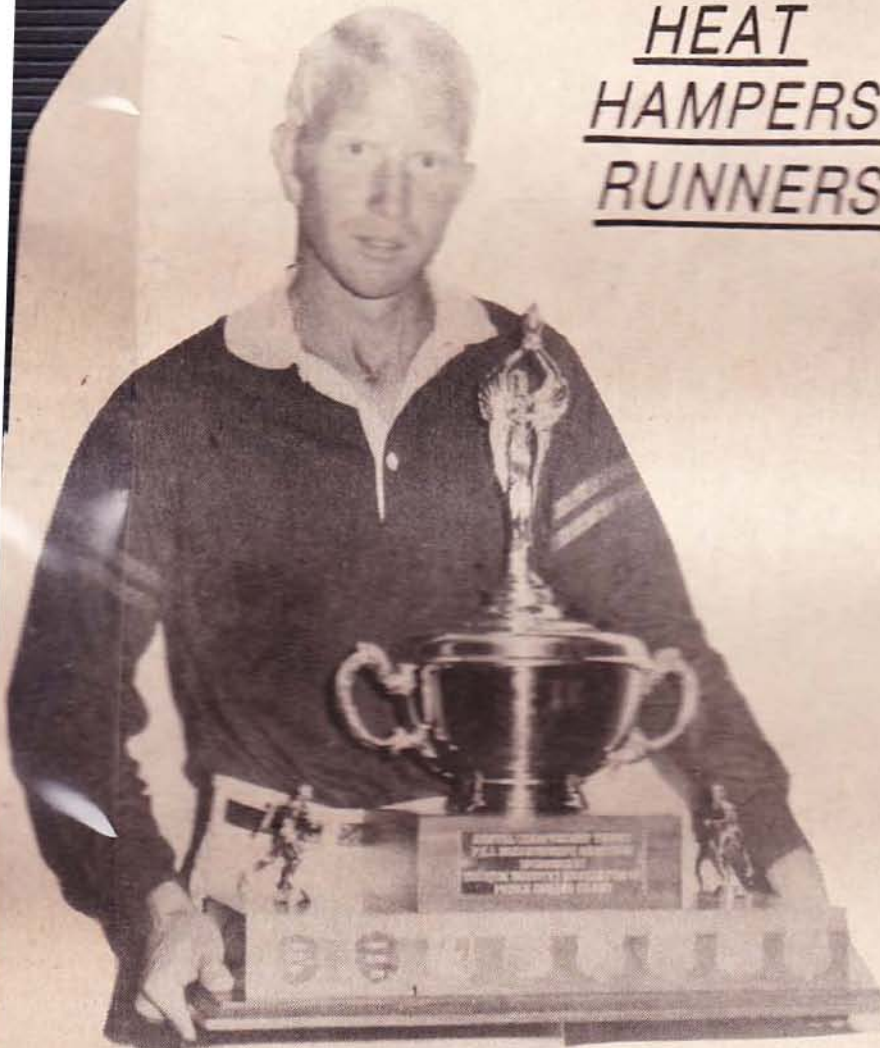
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"Awesome" Loftus A Big Hit

The 1982 Island Marathon is history, and there are a lot of dehydrated, disgusted runners who are quite glad that it is. Just finishing the 26.2 mile course on a warm, sunny day like Sunday is quite an accomplishment. Setting a record, like Tom Loftus did in winning, is absolutely awesome.

Speaking of awesome, there are quite a few ladies along the route who were left awestruck by Loftus as he whizzed by. Tall, blonde, and with a body that seemed chiseled from bronze, he made quite an impression on a number of ladies who were overheard by this reporter, and there is a rumor that there was a fund started on the spot to make sure that he doesn't have to skip next year's race because of any unforeseen lack of funds.

One of the best lines of the day came form one of the many groups lining the route in the North Rustico area. As Loftus chugged by the six-mile mark like a runaway locomotive, with the RCMP escort car at his side, one fellow yelled across the street to his buddy, "Do you think that fella' can keep that pace all the way to Charlottetown?"

"You mean the runner or the Mountie?" was the reply. "The blonde guy looks like a sure thing, but I got my doubts about that car."

Speaking of North Rustico, they ought to rename it "Marathon City" on the date of the race each year. Rain, shine, heat, or cold, it seems like the whole town turns out every year to cheer the runners on at a fashion unheard of along the rest of the route — even better than at the finish line. Sunday the folks could see that there was danger in the heat, and there were many unofficial water stations along the way. Don't think it wasn't appreciated by the runners. The Roadrunners Club should send a big thank-you card to the great fans in the Rustico area, and all along the way, who helped make the race a success.

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND took the top team honors in the annual Island Marathon Sunday as they swept five of the top seven positions to grab the award given annually to any state or province. From LEFT, Ewen Stewart, Charlottetown, 5th overall; Carl Phillips, Tyne Valley, 6th; Mark McCosham, Murray Harbour, 4th overall; Jim Wyatt, Crossroads, 3rd; and Don Pridmore, 7th overall. All received steins. Wyatt was last year's overall winner. Pridmore is the president of the P.E.I. Roadrunners. (12-9-82-12-4)

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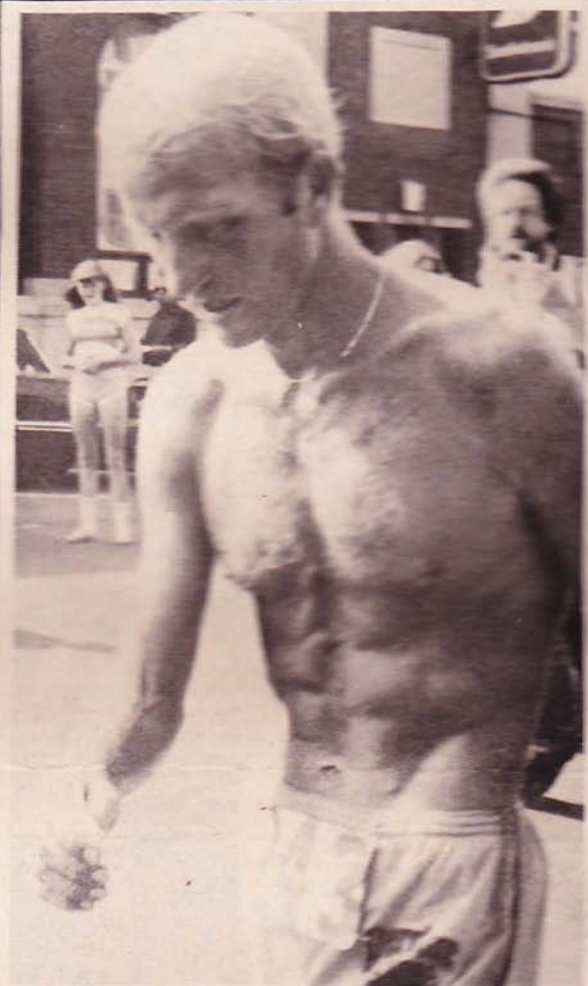
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